



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

portion of students in our colleges. The clear perception of truth is always grateful to the mind, and this source of interest alone can safely be relied on to attract and secure the attention of the young, and inspire them with a love of science for its own sake, the only adequate incentive to laborious and profound study. No fears need exist lest their minds should not be sufficiently tasked. Ample scope for their powers will be found in the application of general principles to particular cases, and in mastering the long and abstract demonstrations of the more difficult parts of the science.

Applying the principles just laid down to Mr. Sherwin's treatise, we do not hesitate to say, that it possesses, in an uncommon degree, all the requisites of a good text-book. He is evidently a close observer of the mental operations of the young, and intimately acquainted with the difficulties which they meet with in the study of Algebra. With an intimate knowledge of their wants, which is hardly less important as a qualification for the task he has undertaken, than an accurate acquaintance with the science itself, he unites uncommon skill in communicating the exact information needed, in the precise form in which it is most readily apprehended by them. The difficulties which will be met with in Mr. Sherwin's book, in understanding the principles of Algebra, are inherent in the subject itself, not dependent on his mode of treating it; and these, together with the numerous examples for practice which the work contains, will abundantly task the learner's powers. The author manifests a familiar knowledge of his subject, and his treatise is characterized throughout by sound judgment in the selection and arrangement of its materials, by neatness and precision of expression, and, above all, by a skilful adaptation to the capacities and wants of the class of learners for whom it is designed.

-
11. — *Youth ; or, Scenes from the Past, and other Poems.*
By WILLIAM PLUMER, Jr. Boston : Little & Brown.
1841. pp. 144.

THE poems in this volume are chiefly sonnets. A few short pieces in other forms are intermingled. They are a sort of poetical history of the author's life, delineating successively the "scenes of the past," through the various stages of childhood, schoolboy days, entering college, college life and its transitions, graduation, and so on. We opened the volume with some misgivings. Sonnets are not generally the most attrac-

tive reading ; even the best of those of Petrarch himself. We have generally been obliged to take them in homœopathic doses. The form of the sonnet is too artificial for our free and bold language easily to yield to ; the necessity of confining the thought within a certain specified number of lines, and, — when the strict rules of the sonnet are adhered to, — of arranging the rhymes in a particular order, is too much like a strait jacket for the “undoubted liberties” of the English Muse. But Mr. Plumer's book is exceedingly pleasing. His language is easy, flowing, and pure. He never transcends the boundaries of good taste. The poetry is not of a high or brilliant order ; but it breathes a pure and gentle spirit, and shows a refined sensibility to the beauties of nature, the charms of literature, and the best feelings of the heart. Its metrical structure is correct and harmonious. The descriptions that here and there occur are delicately and elegantly drawn ; the reflections are well expressed ; and the imagery is all of a poetical character. As a fair specimen of our poet's skill, we may take two sonnets on Shakspeare.

I.

“ I am the king himself, —
Ay, every inch a king.” LEAR.

“ Would that my verse were worthier, while I sing
Thy praise, O Shakspeare ! so thine ear might lend
No unpleased audience, while my numbers blend
Thy wood notes wild, with sounds that faintly ring
From feebler harps. Thou, e'en in wildest mood,
Art still to nature true, thy mind imbued
With inbred wisdom : not earth's sagest pen
More true to life, than thy pervading ken,
That glanced o'er earth, and all its movements viewed.
The many-branching maze of human thought
To thee lay open ; thy keen eye had caught
Each subtile turn, and all its paths pursued ;
Till highest truths, in richest fancy dressed,
Lived in each thought, and all thy soul possessed.

II.

“ When he speaks,
The air, a chartered libertine, is still ;
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears,
To steal his sweet and honeyed sentences.” HENRY V.

“ Not greatly did he err, the priest, who said
His Bible, and thy page, to him sufficed,
Shakspeare ! for knowledge ; other books he prized,
But these were peerless ; these he daily read
For truths, divine and human ; well advised
That wisdom here, as at the fountain head,
Her pure streams poured, her richest verdure spread.

Bright child of fancy! sporting on the verge
Of utmost sense, 't is thine, at will, to stray
Familiar through all bounds, nor lose thy way ;
Or, haply lost, yet quickly to emerge
From seeming darkness to unclouded day ;
Broad as man's nature, thy capacious soul
Surveyed all worlds, and harmonized the whole."—pp. 98, 99.

12. — *Notes on the Use of Anthracite in the Manufacture of Iron. With some Remarks on its Evaporating Power.* By WALTER R. JOHNSON, A. M., Civil and Mining Engineer ; Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy in the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College ; late Professor of Mechanics and Natural Philosophy in the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia ; Member of the National Institute, for the Promotion of Science ; of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia ; of the Association of American Geologists, &c., &c. Boston : Charles C. Little & James Brown. 1841. 12mo. pp. 156.

PROFESSOR JOHNSON has made himself favorably known by his able contributions to various scientific publications, and by the laborious and valuable experiments which he conducted as Chairman of a Committee of the Franklin Institute, at the expense of the government of the United States, on the strength of different kinds of iron, and of iron at different temperatures, and on the latent heat of steam. The present treatise exhibits evidence of good taste, sound judgment, careful investigation, and no mean qualifications for original scientific research. The subject which it discusses is one of great importance. Iron, intrinsically the most valuable of metals, is consumed to an immense extent ; and from the expansion of long-established branches of manufactures, and the rapid multiplication of the uses to which it is applied, its consumption is constantly increasing. There is no reason to doubt that the progress of civilization and of the useful arts will create new demands for it, as vast and as little foreseen, as that which has arisen from the invention of the railroad. So intimately is iron connected with the physical well-being of individuals and the advancement of society, that the improvement of its quality and the reduction of its cost may justly be regarded as important public objects. Viewed in this light, the act passed by the legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, in the year 1836, to encourage attempts to substitute mineral